

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. MCDOWELL**

Re: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

Today's Order will encourage fair and full competition among video service providers by picking up where we left off in our video franchise reform order released last spring. This Order levels the playing field by extending to incumbent providers many of the de-regulatory benefits we provided to new entrants in our First Report and Order. No governmental entities, including those of us at the FCC, should have any thumb on the scale to give a regulatory advantage to any competitor. The Order will provide regulatory certainty to market players, enhance video competition, accelerate broadband deployment and produce lower rates for consumers. Furthermore, as with the First Report and Order, I am confident that our action today is fully supported by substantial legal authority.

Thank you to the Chairman and thank you to the Bureau for your hard work on this item.